



NEWSLETTER

AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY

MAY/JUNE 1989

VOLUME 4 NO. 3

ONGOING FUNDING TO COMMUNITY AIDS GROUPS UNCERTAIN

Community AIDS groups in Canada provide services to persons affected with AIDS and do the bulk of preventive education with persons at risk. These community groups have led the way in the fight against AIDS, educating the general public on health and psycho-social issues for people affected with AIDS, as well as providing direct support to persons diagnosed with AIDS and their partners and families.

In Canada there are presently 39 community groups operating all of which are members of the Canadian AIDS Society. The Society provides a national voice, a link to the Minister of Health and Welfare, and a link to the Federal Centre for AIDS in Ottawa. At the most recent annual meeting of the Canadian AIDS Society, held in Quebec May 1989, four new Alberta based AIDS groups joined.

Community AIDS groups across Canada have had a recurring problem. They have been unable to obtain funding commitments from provincial or federal levels of government beyond one year. In addition they have limited access to other funding agencies like the United Way and FCSS (Family Community Social Services Agencies) at the local level.

Initially federal development grants were given to about 20 organizations through Health Promotions Branch, Health and Welfare Canada. AIDS Vancouver was the first organization funded in 1985 and it has since served as a model for funding other AIDS community groups across the country. The issue now is to move from development grant funding to sustained multi-year program funding.

Canada ranks behind other countries, particularly European countries, as well as Australia, New Zealand and the United States, in responding to the needs of public education and in providing leadership. Canada has failed to adequately mobilize educators and public health officials in the fight against AIDS.

SPREAD THE WORD NOT THE DISEASE

What you don't know about
AIDS
can kill you

Choose your partner carefully
Always use a condom
Never share a needle



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The Federal Government has not to date provided the political will and leadership necessary in the development of a national strategy in which all sectors of government, public health, and community groups can participate.

The lack of leadership from the federal government has allowed the provinces to ignore the issue of adequate preventive education programs for the public. In many provinces they have also been able to ignore the support that is required for persons affected with AIDS.

Provinces continue to respond in varying degrees. Ontario has provided the best response and they are presently involved in supporting thirteen community AIDS groups. Manitoba and Alberta also responded well in 1986/87. Alberta developed a three year AIDS program which was the first of its kind in Canada. This program ends in March 1990 and a new program which deals with the continuing need for services/education in the province and supports the Community Groups who provide an ever growing measure of these services is needed. Early response and initial levels of financial support to the community groups have fallen since 1987 and are uncertain beyond 1989.

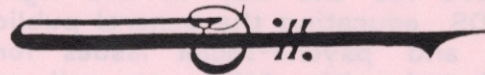
AIDS is different from other diseases because of the social stigma that continues to be attached to people affected by this virus. For example B.C. and the Maritime provinces have not responded at all to the needs of community groups. In many of these provinces there is both an anti-community group feeling and negative feelings towards the main groups presently affected - gay and bi-sexual men, Intravenous drug users and a young transient population.

The limited response at all levels of government allows society to ignore the issue of AIDS and has further enabled homophobia to stop people from accepting and acknowledging the risk. People have been lulled into thinking of risk groups instead of risk behaviours.

Inadequate public preventive education programs have placed large numbers of people at risk and allowed them to become

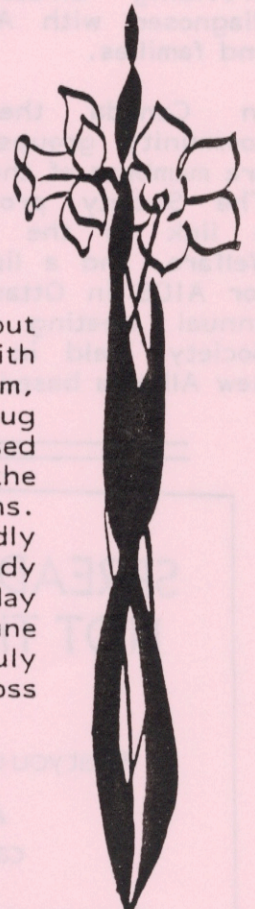
infected with a virus that has an incubation period of up to 10 years. A large number of the approximately 50,000 infected people in Canada will go on to become ill in the next 5 to 10 years.

The Canadian government and the provinces have a choice of doing the necessary preventive education work now or pay high medical and social cost in the future if the HIV infection continues to spread. Only an increased level of co-operation between the federal and provincial governments in developing a national strategy to fight HIV/AIDS that also includes Community AIDS Groups and stakeholders will meet the challenge of defeating this health problem.



IN MEMORIAM

We take time out to remember, with love, Jamie, Sam, Norman and Doug who have passed away during the past two months. We also fondly recall, Randy and Richard - May 88, David - June 88, Gordon - July 88, Eric and Ross - July 86.



MEMORIAL QUILT COMES TO CALGARY

The Quilt is a massive memorial and work of art made up of over 9,000 individual panels three feet by six sewn together. When assembled it covers an area the size of several football fields.

Each of the panels celebrates a person's life and reflects the love and hope of those who made it. The panels were designed by family, friends and partners of an individual who had died from AIDS. They are accompanied by letters and stories about those honoured and provides insight into the loved ones who helped to make it.

The Quilt began in 1987 with a small group of volunteers operating out of a store-front in San Francisco. There a combined interest in quilting and a desire to provide a moving memorial came together in this undertaking. The Quilt provides two things to family, friends and lovers; first, a means of remembering their loved ones who had died from AIDS and, second, a method of working through their grief with others who have suffered a similar loss. What began as a small local project has now grown into an international memorial to thousands who have died from AIDS.

The project was designed to develop a national awareness and to support three essential goals.

- that the Quilt provide a positive and creative means of expression for those whose lives have been touched by AIDS
- to provide a forum for public education and illustrate the impact of the AIDS epidemic by showing the humanity behind the statistics
- to raise funds and encourage support for people with AIDS and their families

The Quilt is managed by the Names Project Foundation in San Francisco and was first displayed on October 11, 1987, in front of the U.S. capital in Washington, D.C. In 1988, the Quilt travelled across the USA to return once more to Washington in October of that year.

This summer a portion of the Quilt is being displayed in Canada under the auspices of the Names Project Foundation - Canada. It will contain many of the panels made to remember Canadian victims of AIDS. New Canadian panels will be displayed during the tour and will later be used to help make up a Canadian Quilt.

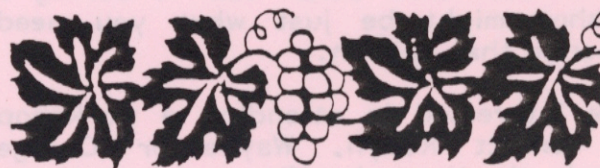
Anyone interested in making a panel to commemorate a lost friend can obtain information from the Quilt Project Committee of AIDS Calgary.

On July 4, 5, and 6 Albertans will have the opportunity to see the Quilt as it stops in Calgary during its summer '89 Canadian tour. It will be displayed in Calgary City Hall with opening and closing ceremonies for the event held in Olympic Plaza. There will be no charge for the event but containers will be provided for those wishing to make donations.

The AIDS Network of Edmonton will be chartering a bus to see the Quilt in Calgary. The cost is tentatively \$20 return. If you are interested, please call Wayne at the ANE office to book your seat.

Also, over five hundred volunteers will be needed when the Quilt stops in Calgary. If you are interested in helping out, please call Gary Povey of AIDS Calgary at 228-0198.

The AIDS Network is interested in assisting interested persons in producing new panels for the Canadian Quilt which will go on tour again in 12 to 18 months. If you or your friends are interested in making a quilt to remember a loved one who has died please contact us.



EROTICIZING SAFER SEX WORKSHOPS

Engaging in unsafe sex is the primary method of transmission of the HIV virus. Unfortunately, telling people the ways and means of practicing safer sex which may help reduce the amounts of HIV transmission is not always effective. Due to fear, denial and a lack of appropriate skills, there are individuals who refuse to practice safer sex. Too often they feel trapped into celibacy as the only alternative, they believe that if they can't do what they want they would rather not do anything at all.

That is where Safer Sex Workshops come in. Developed in 1985 by the Gay Men's Health Crisis Centre, the workshops show how sex can still be fun, erotic and sexual, while remaining healthy.

Workshops led by Network trained volunteers are for heterosexuals, bisexuals and homosexuals, providing an indepth study of sexual behaviours and beliefs. They deal with widely held preconceptions and misconceptions about AIDS. The workshops provide a comfortable forum where individuals can explore the concept of safer sex, based on the CAS Safer Sex Guidelines.

Participants at workshops learn how to negotiate safer sex in a non-threatening manner and begin a dialogue on sexuality as it relates to those at risk. They share their anxieties about new sexual realities and by discussing them come to understand that safer sex need not be boring or dull. The facilitators (eroticisers to you) have a number of workshops scheduled for the upcoming months. If you feel intimidated by the idea of safer sex or feel that safer sex is boring a workshop might be just what you need to change that opinion.

Those interested in attending a workshop can contact Robyn, Wayne or George through the Network office and investigate "Safer Sex for the Health of it".

Upcoming workshops:

June 22	6:30 - 10:30 p.m.
June 24	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
June 29	6:30 - 10:30 p.m.
July 8	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
July 11	6:30 - 10:30 p.m.
July 22	1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
July 25	6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Join us?



Support for you

The Network has recently made a new addition to its support services. Randy, a member of AADAC, spends time working with people on a one to one basis.

We encourage those interested to talk to Randy regarding concerns about substance use. He deals with substance users and is available to talk to the users family, friends or concerned others.

He will continue to be at the Network on the second Thursday of each month from 6 - 9 p.m. Contact the AIDS Network Support Services for more information or to reserve some time with Randy.

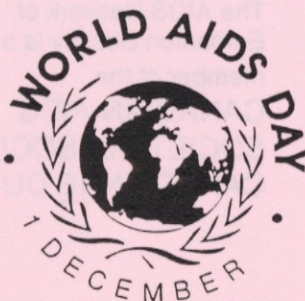
PLEASE NOTE:

The Family Group and the Worried Well Group will not meet in August but will meet in June and July on casual basis.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Safer Sex Workshops**
June 22, 24 & 29
July 8, 11, 22 & 25
see article on page 4
- **National AIDS Quilt Tour**
Calgary - July 4-6, 1989
National tour of the Memorial Quilt
Names Project for Persons who have
died of AIDS
FOR INFO: 424-4767
- **Elisabeth Kubler-Ross Centre**
Life, Death & Transition 5 day, live
in Workshop - \$ 600. U.S.
Sept. 11 - 15, 1989
at Sorrento Centre
Sorrento, B. C.
to register - write or phone
Workshop Co-ordinator
Elizabeth Kubler-Ross Centre
S. Route 616,
Headwaters, Virginia
U.S.A.
24442
Phone: (703) 396-3441
- **New Volunteer Training Fall 1989**
Interested in Volunteering with the
AIDS Network? An introductory
information evening is being scheduled
for late August for prospective
volunteers. Phone the Volunteer
Co-ordinator at 424-4767 for application
and information.



IMPORTANT!

THANK YOU

TO THE ORGANIZERS, VOLUNTEERS AND
SUPPORTERS OF THE FOLLOWING TWO
FUND RAISING EVENTS:

Rainbow of Hope Concert - June 4

- Hope Ungarian, her volunteers and
the 13 ethnic groups who participated
in the concert
- Priority Printing Ltd. and the U of
A Medical Students Association for
co-sponsoring the event and donating
services
- the donors of the door prizes
- the many volunteers of the AIDS
Network who gave generously of their
time and efforts

The Vik Gallery - Art Benefit - June 8

- Dr. Knut Vik and staff for sponsoring
this annual event
- the guest curator Lelde Muelenbachs
and the artists who generously
participated
- the volunteers of the AIDS Network

We greatly appreciate the community
support and involvement in events like
this which help to raise awareness about
AIDS and provide financial support to
the AIDS Network.

ROSS ARMSTRONG FUND UPDATE:

May 31, 1989

Previous Balance (April 1, 1989)	\$6,405.83
Donations	\$ 220.00
Memberships	\$ 295.00
Interest	\$ 17.88
	\$6,938.71
Grants	\$ 700.00
	\$6,238.71

Office Address:

10704 - 108 Street
Second Floor
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 3A3

Telephone Number:

Info Line: 429-AIDS (2437)
Business Line: 424-4767

Office Hours:

Monday - Wednesday 9 am - 6 pm
Thursday 9 am - 9 pm
Friday 9 am - 6 pm

Information Line Hours:

Monday - Thurs 9 am - 9 pm
Friday 9 am - 6 pm
Saturday 11 am - 3 pm

The newsletter is published monthly by the AIDS network of Edmonton Society with the financial assistance from the HEALTH PROMOTION DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE CANADA AND LEVI STRAUSS CO. (Canada) Inc.

The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society, incorporated in February, 1986, is a non-profit charitable organization (Reg. #0747212-11-25).

MEDICAL RESEARCH

Donations to AIDS Research can be made through the AIDS Network Research Trust Fund, administered by the University of Alberta. Donations are matched by provincial funds, and a charitable receipt is available.



The mandate of the AIDS Network is to provide support to those affected by AIDS and to educate and inform with a view to limiting its spread.

INFORMATION

An informational and support telephone line operates Monday - Saturday. Pamphlets and a lending resource library are available to agencies and the public.

EDUCATIONAL

A speakers bureau provides speakers for educational presentations to concerned groups.

Audiovisual materials and information files are available on loan.

COUNSELLING

Confidential one-on-one professional counselling services are available to persons directly or indirectly concerned about AIDS. Referrals to other professional services are made on request.

SUPPORT GROUPS


For persons who are concerned about their HIV status; who have tested positive for HIV antibodies; for persons with AIDS; for friends, families and partners of persons with AIDS.

ADVOCACY

Assistance will be provided to individuals facing difficulties in receiving services because of their health status.

The AIDS Network works to coordinate the services of supportive public and private agencies in all areas involved by the AIDS crisis.

The services of the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society are provided FREE and on a CONFIDENTIAL basis.



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Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 3A3
(403) 424-4767

AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____ PHONE: _____

A \$25.00 membership contributes to the support of persons with AIDS, entitles you to receive a monthly newsletter, and the right to vote at the AIDS Network annual general meeting.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
Please notify the AIDS Network if your address changes.

Please inquire about the reduced membership rates for students or the unemployed.

The mandate of the AIDS Network is to provide support



The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society is a member of the
CANADIAN AIDS SOCIETY/LASOCIETE CANADIENNE DU SIDA